

18 August 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretariat, Economic Intelligence Committee  
FROM : Secretary, EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture  
SUBJECT : Annual Report for 1954-55.

A. Program of the EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture During 1954-55.

1. Review of the Intelligence Product and the Research Facilities Available for Producing Intelligence in the Subcommittee's Field of Competence.

The Subcommittee on Agriculture by informal comment on reports sought to encourage the production of improved intelligence reports in the field of food and agriculture. It took no formal action, however, during 1954-55 to review the over-all problems of intelligence production.

2. Programming of Research Priorities.

During 1954-55 the Subcommittee took action as indicated below to fill the previously-identified gaps and deficiencies listed:

a. Gap or Deficiency: To make sound estimates of future agricultural production in the Soviet Union, it is necessary that research on past production behavior be conducted in greater depth than has been done in the past.

Subcommittee Action: The Subcommittee encouraged, assisted, and approved an external research project which will go far toward filling this gap. This research project will be conducted

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b. Gap or Deficiency: "Is the state of Soviet agriculture likely to affect decisively Soviet foreign policy and strategic planning during the foreseeable future and if so, how?" A Department of State member of the EIC proposed that a coordinated study of Soviet agriculture be undertaken through the offices of the Subcommittee on Agriculture.

Subcommittee Action: A three member committee of the Subcommittee is presently making a survey of the feasibility of this project in the light of the availability of research time by the various agencies and departments competent to make substantive contributions to the project.

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-2-

c. Gaps or Deficiency: The Defense Department asked the Subcommittee to consider one of its gaps in intelligence relating to physical factors affecting crop production in Southeast Asia.

Subcommittee Action: The Subcommittee approved a motion to the effect that the Department of Agriculture is the agency best qualified to provide the answers to this problem and recommended that further negotiations be undertaken directly between G-2 and the Department of Agriculture.

d. Gap or Deficiency: The Subcommittee early in its history identified as an important deficiency the economic intelligence reporting from the Soviet Bloc countries.

Subcommittee Action: On 8 September 1954, the Subcommittee recommended that two agricultural reporting officers be maintained in the USSR, that two such officers be assigned to the European Satellites, and that one such officer be assigned to Hong Kong. With the exception of the last named post, agricultural reporting officers have been accredited as recommended by the Subcommittee. Continued efforts will be made to get the Hong Kong post filled.

3. Projects Undertaken at the Request of EIC:

a. See 2b above re coordinated study of Soviet agriculture.

b. A request for information on Soviet agriculture originating from Mr. John Easton of the JCS, addressed to the EIC Executive Secretary has been referred to the Subcommittee on agriculture for consideration and action.

4. Discussion of Intelligence Research Techniques.

This subject has not been dealt with formally by the Subcommittee during the past year.

5. Review of the Adequacy of Available Information and Facilities for its Processing.

No action taken in 1954-55.

6. Special Coordination Functions of the Subcommittee.

a. Specialists from the Departments of Agriculture, State, and from CIA pooled their information on Soviet crop production in 1954. This coordination made possible far better estimates than might have been possible by any single analyst or group from a single agency.

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- 3 -

b. The Subcommittee reviewed a CIA paper entitled, "Land Reform in Iran". Because the paper had already served the needs of its requestor and considerable additional work would be required to publish it as an EIC report, the Subcommittee decided against its publication.

B. Future Program of the Subcommittee.

No changes in the present structure or in the functioning of the Subcommittee on Agriculture are contemplated for 1955-56.

After about two years of regularly scheduled meetings, the Subcommittee decided to meet only as required. This system has been employed during the past year and it seems to be satisfying the members. Each member agency feels that as the need occurs, it may ask that a meeting be held to consider one or more matters. This has resulted in the saving of time and the concentration of effort on problems which the members consider to be of major importance.

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Secretary  
EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture

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EIC-D-19  
1 December 1952  
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Security Information

EXTRACT FROM EIC-M-23, 20 NOVEMBER 1952

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DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE PROGRAM OF THE AGRICULTURAL SUBCOMMITTEE

10. Discussion: [REDACTED] CIA, Chairman of the EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture, reported on the program of the Subcommittee, and stated that it was the mission of the Subcommittee to initiate intelligence research in their field and to take appropriate action to obtain the collection and collation of information required for their research. Research projects are initiated by the Subcommittee as a result of: (a) specific requests by the EIC or a participating agency, such as the EIC request for an agricultural section to NIE-56, (b) research deficiencies pointed up by the Subcommittee Survey of "Gaps and Deficiencies in Agricultural Intelligence on the Soviet Orbit," and (c) Subcommittee recognition of a major current problem requiring a research study. An example of this last category is the study on Land Reform noted below.

11. Subcommittees are not expected at this time to intensively survey the intelligence gaps on the non-Soviet areas. Rather they should fulfill a certain "watch function" in identifying high priority intelligence problems in non-Soviet areas which require immediate attention. In this regard, the Agricultural Subcommittee has identified the question of land tenure in the Middle East and South East areas as a priority intelligence problem and currently is formulating a research project on it in consultation with the Office of National Estimates. 25X1A9a

12. [REDACTED] Vice Chairman, pointed out that it is usually not necessary for the EIC to exercise close control over subcommittees' activities, particularly in those cases where the subcommittees are effectively fulfilling their mission. [REDACTED] further stressed 25X1A9a that it is the responsibility of EIC members to keep abreast of the projects and programs of the subcommittees through (a) their agency representatives, (b) the subcommittee minutes, and (c) the periodic EIC progress reports. Unless the EIC Secretariat is informed of opposition to particular subcommittee activities, it is assumed that the EIC members have no objection. However, [REDACTED] the Executive 25X1A9a Secretary, is expected to maintain a close liaison with the work of all subcommittees and to advise the EIC of any major subcommittee activity requiring special attention.

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